THE ASYLUM

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Books are the legacies
that genius leaves
to mankind, to be
delivered down from
generation to generation,
as presents to those
that are yet unborn.

Joseph Addison
1672–1719

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The Asylum

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Front cover: Engraving of the reverse of a medal commemorating the naval battle of Palermo in 1676, during the Franco-Dutch War. From *Médailles sur les principaux événements du règne de Louis le Grand* (see David Fanning's column in this issue.)

The Curious Case of William Hesslein

John W. Adams

Chapman, Woodward, Elder—this is what collecting auction catalogues is all about. These series have it all: well-mapped boundaries, strong content, special features, and availability. Those that own them know that they own something important with a deserved place in the fabric of numismatic history. A person who collects Woodwards or Chapmans is a person of substance, a person to be trusted and admired.

So why would anyone collect a cataloguer whose output is ill-mapped, where the content is minimal and the series lacks any special features and is, finally, extremely scarce due to the mediocrity of the material at the time of issue. Why indeed would one collect the catalogues of William Hesslein?

Quite frankly, this question had not troubled us in the least until we acquired a fine run of Hesslein catalogues in the most recent Kolbe & Fanning sale. When the purchase arrived, the drab covers and matter-of-fact descriptions confirmed that we had, for whatever reason, bid on the right lot. Actually, the acquisition filled five spaces in our holdings, leaving us just one to go in order to attain completion: a dubious ambition, perhaps, but a mountain which few others have climbed.

As we pondered our folly, we decided to consult Del Bland, the previous owner of this new purchase. Del is a Hall-of-Famer when it comes to large cents, having maintained a condition census for all Sheldon varieties for nearly forty years. He has handled and/or catalogued virtually every piece in that census, plus a lot more that didn't make the cut. Why would a world-class copper specialist be interested in material which a bibliophile would label as "minor league"?

When asked "Why in the wide world of sports did you collect Hesslein?", Del paused for a good long while and then answered, "That's a good question; I don't know." After another long pause he added, "You know, Bob Vail [another notable copper maverick] also collected Hesslein. In fact, we had quite a rivalry and I was ahead, but not by much."

One of the neat things about being a numismatic bibliophile is that there are series—like Hesslein—that are so scarce as to be challenging to collect and yet so little known as to require only a modest outlay to play the game. Del Bland assembled on a modest budget more Hessleins than has the ANS Library with many more resources and much more time in the chase. This opportunity was what, in the final analysis, brought Del Bland and Bob Vail to the party. True collectors ask no more than a high hurdle to surmount and a reasonable chance, after a vigorous chase, of being successful.

As it turns out, the more challenging the chase, the more serendipitous the outcome is likely to be. We can give no proof for this statement, but many years of laboring in the vineyard have convinced us that such is indeed the case. There is no better illustration of our point than Del Bland's venture into Hesslein. The Starred Reverse, also known as Sheldon 48 or, even more fondly, as Hays 8, is a legendary variety of the 1794 large cent. For years the condition census was a tie between Willard Blaisdell's Jackman specimen and the Hays 8 owned by Dr. Sheldon, provenanced to Henry Miller and Henry Hines. For Del Bland, the challenge in confirming this latter ownership chain was that there was no Starred Reverse in the two Miller sales conducted by Tom Elder in 1917 and 1920. The trail was incomplete by his high standards.

Then serendipity took over. As Del was adding to his Hesslein catalogues, he purchased sale 17, dated April 12, 1916, the collection of Edward Miller. Lot 305 in this catalogue was an eye-opener: "1794 Hays #8 medium brown color. A very fine cent. This variety is easily recognized by the circle of 87 minute stars beyond milling on reverse, which can be readily seen on this specimen, without a glass. This is without doubt the finest specimen known of this excessively rare variety." Thus the provenance as listed by Sheldon was correct; however, the "Miller" on the envelope was Edward Miller, not Henry Miller as others (perhaps even Sheldon) had assumed.

Lot 305 fetched the strong price of $32.55. A "beautifully struck" Hays 39 sold for $24.15, an MS 1796 Gilbert A brought $35.05, and a fine 1799 topped the large cent section with $60.05. Although the Miller sale occured relatively early in the Hesslein series, it was to be the best content in all his catalogues—a candidate for an "A–", but more properly a "B+". Outstanding large cents are joined by decent gold, respectable early silver, and some notable colonials, with Miller having

representation in just about every category, led by Massachusetts silver and Vermont coppers.

While on the subject of William Hesslein, he was described as a "petty crook" in *United States Numismatic Literature*, volume I. Eric Newman, MIT Class of 1932 (!), confirms this label. While a student, he used to visit regularly Hesslein's shop in Boston. There he bought a 1793 large cent, which later turned out to have been altered from 1794. When Newman found this out and sought a refund, it was too late: the shop was closed and the owner had skipped town.

It is well to re-ask the question asked at the outset: why would anyone collect a cataloguer whose output is ill-mapped, where the content is minimal, where the availability is limited *and* further, where the author was a thief? With apologies to Del Bland, we answer, "I don't know... but it sure is a lot of fun."

Some Observations on Sale One of the W. W. C. Wilson Collection

Joe Foster

Inspired by the sale of Michael Sullivan's collection of Wayte Raymond catalogues by Charles Davis, I thought I would add some additional notes and information from my collection of Wayte Raymond's first Wilson sale, November 16–18, 1925.

First, there appear to be at least two different versions of the plates of the Bouquet Sou tokens. My collection has the four plates on thin paper, with the numbering of the tokens in a different hand than is found on the plates in a hard-bound catalogue in a collection in Canada. My plates come from a Canadian collection (probably *ex* Château de Ramezay) sold by George Kolbe.

Second, there are also marbled green board and cloth folders, with black cloth ties and tri-fold interiors, designed to hold plates and copies of paper-covered catalogues of first, second, and third days' sales. These

folders are 8 1/2″ × 10 3/8″, with the catalogues themselves being 7 1/2″ × 10″. My collection contains two of these.

Third, my collection includes a separate set of plates, numbers 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 11a, and 11b, for the second day's sale of Canadian items. These seven plates could also have the additional four plates of Bouquet Sou tokens included, making a total of eleven plates. As the Bouquet Sou plates are very rare, one must assume that most contained only the seven plates, which match up with the catalogue plate numbers. I also have separate plates for the third day's sale, consisting of plates 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36. These are items depicting presidents of the United States. I believe that one could order any combination of plates for this third day's sale, with the plates and catalogues being contained in the cloth and board folders, and the same for the second day's sale.

Fourth, I also have the original copper printing plate for the Sideview tokens plate, between pages 32 and 33.

I hope this brief note gives a little more insight into the variations of the three-day sale, or maybe just adds to the suppositions and confusion!

Numismatically Canadian: William Robert McColl (1855–1933)

Scott Douglas

One hundred and ten years ago, on March 18, 1903, W. R. McColl of Owen Sound, Ontario wrote to R. W. McLachlan of Montreal that "My wife has got me to consent to part with my collection of coins." It was then that McColl created the *List of Canadian, British, United States and Foreign Coins and Pattern Pieces, Paper Money, etc.* that would unwittingly become the most important reference for future collectors of Canadian merchant trade tokens.

William Robert McColl was born in Sarnia, Ontario, on December 6, 1855. When McColl was 13 years old he left Sarnia Grammar School to begin as an apprentice in the successful dry goods store of T. and J. S. Symington in Sarnia. After three years McColl sought to further his apprenticeship with Robert Wanless at his grocery, china, and glassware shop also located in Sarnia. Again after three years, and on the advice of his Sunday School teacher, McColl relocated to Forest, Ontario, to work as a salesman in the dry-goods store of Duncan McBain. While in the service of McBain, McColl (now a man of 21 years) answered an ad in the Toronto *Globe* for a sales position in Oshawa, Ontario. Upon being the fortunate applicant out of a group of 23, McColl worked there for two years as a clerk before taking a step that would see him work for no one else but himself for the rest of his life.

In 1878 McColl married Lucy Jane Lee of Stratford, Ontario, and the following year he formed a partnership with Lucy's brother, William T. Lee. The firm would be known as McColl and Lee. For the next 10 years these two young men built a successful business and strengthened their business relationship that allowed them to make a bold move to relocate

This article was reprinted from the July/August 2013 issue of *The CN Journal*, the official publication of the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (www.rcna.ca). Used with permission.

William Robert McColl; photograph by George Holmes. Courtesty of the National Currency Colleciton, Currency Museum, Bank of Canada.

from Oshawa to Owen Sound, Ontario, where both would become well respected citizens of their community, each in their own way.

On September 12, 1889, the *Owen Sound Advertiser* ran McColl and Lee's first ad. A short introduction was printed by the newspaper, the *Advertiser*, on page 2, stating in part, "...a large new dry goods establishment has been opened out next to Parker's Drug Store, Poulett Street, by Messrs. McCall [*sic*] & Lee. They have opened out seventy-five cases of new and seasonable goods which the public are respectfully invited to call and inspect." Poulett Street was the thriving business street of the town, and McColl and Lee was located at 143 Poulett St. in the Parker Block. Business was good, and three years later, in 1892, McColl and Lee moved to larger premises. The new location was just a few doors up the road at 133–137 Poulett St. a building the firm had built for its purposes. The establishment of McColl and Lee was now to become known as "The Twin Stores." The building was set up like two separate stores but joined with a middle section.

During this time McColl was to become friends with another well-known, respected Owen Sound businessman, George Holmes. Holmes was a successful photographer who had been born and raised in Owen

The Personal Cards of William R. McColl

A B

McColl's first numismatic tokens have the incorrect word *numismatists.*

C D E

McColl tokens with the corrected word *numismatist.* At right is the third die with knurled rim (versus the beaded rim of the first issue). Each token has a population of 100.

F G H

These tokens are of the same style as the McColl die "G." Holmes and Ankcorn were friends of McColl's each having businesses nearby on Poulett St. These tokens were made by C. H. Hanson of Chicago, likely at McColl's request. Fig. H: Ankcorn is misspelled.

I

This token was struck in brass with the beaded border original design. Discovered in the Holmes/McColl hoard in 2006; likely unique.

Sound. He also, over time, came to own several of the buildings in the business area of town. George Holmes was also a numismatist, likely introduced to the hobby by McColl.

McColl and Lee and the Twin Stores would survive seven more years before both men, after almost 20 years in business together, would amicably split up and each go his own way. William Lee remained in his half of the Twin Stores at 137 Poulett Street, while McColl re-established himself at "The Old Post Office" building, one of the buildings owned by George Holmes. McColl would remain there for the next five years, from 1898–1903. In September 1903 McColl closed his business and would not return to the role of shopkeeper for some 22 years.

W.R. McColl and his wife Lucy were both very Christian people and were well established in the Knox Presbyterian Church. McColl was an elder of the church from 1896 until 1902, together with George Holmes. This would likely represent two terms of three years, which was normal for the day. Later, on May 25, 1926, at a well-attended meeting of the Continuing Presbyterians in Owen Sound, the matter of constructing a new church was evaluated. W.R. McColl was one of a committee of ten created to canvass for funds.

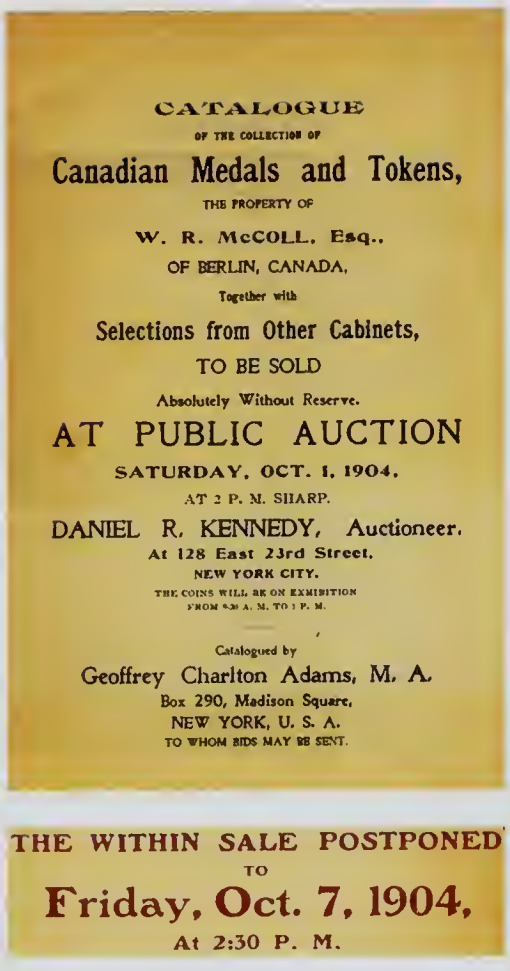
When Lucy McColl died on March 31, 1927, the *Owen Sound Sun Times* stated in part:

> "...Mrs. McColl was a member of the Knox Church up to the formation of the new St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church with which she had been identified for the last year and a half. Aside from her chief interest, her home, Mrs. McColl was deeply interested in the Ladies Aid of Knox Church for many years. She led a beautiful Christian life and endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact."

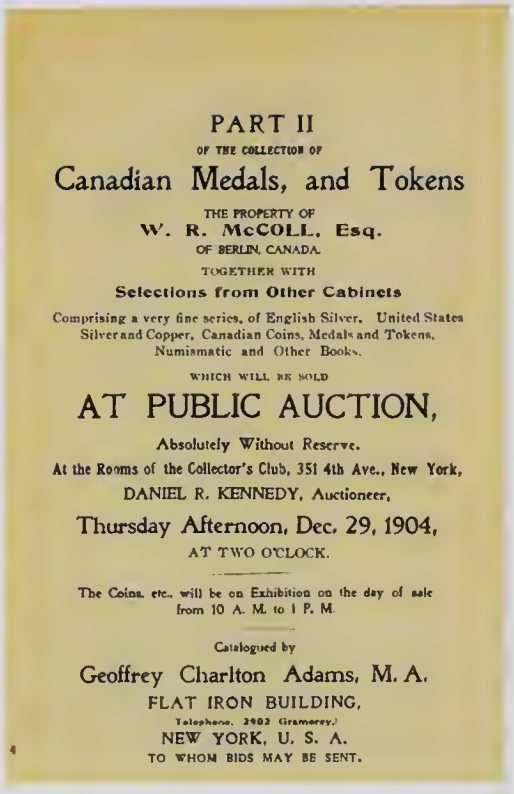
You will recall that W. R. McColl was influenced by his Sunday-school teacher who had advised him to seek the job in Forest, Ontario.

It is not exactly clear when William McColl became interested in collecting coins and tokens but it would seem he was involved in this hobby at least from 1890 until he sold his collections in 1904. Given that religion was a large part of McColl's life, it is only natural that he had more than a passing interest in communion tokens. In fact it is ironic that as collectors of Canadian merchant trade tokens, we look to McColl's list as such a valuable guide to these tokens, and yet when McColl made his own personal numismatist card he stated that he was a "Collector of Rare Canadian Coins / Medals and Communion Tokens." He didn't mention the merchant trade and advertising tokens of which he had a vast collection. Perhaps there wasn't room on the card or perhaps he coveted his communion tokens more. In any case it is this interest that, in the first place, may have led to him being in contact with R. W. McLachlan. McLachlan wrote an early version of the catalogue "Canadian Communion Tokens" in 1889–90. It appeared in the *Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal.*

During 1902 McColl and McLachlan extensively bought, sold, and traded pieces with each other and others in the hobby. In January of 1903 a tone in McColl's letter is detected as follows; "yours to hand re


CATALOGUE
OF THE COLLECTION OF
Canadian Medals and Tokens,
THE PROPERTY OF
W. R. McCOLL, Esq.,
OF BERLIN, CANADA,
Together with
Selections from Other Cabinets,
TO BE SOLD
Absolutely Without Reserve.
AT PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY, OCT. 1, 1904,
AT 2 P. M. SHARP.
DANIEL R. KENNEDY, Auctioneer,
At 128 East 23rd Street,
NEW YORK CITY.
THE COINS WILL BE ON EXHIBITION
FROM 9:30 A. M. TO 1 P. M.
Catalogued by
Geoffrey Charlton Adams, M. A.
Box 290, Madison Square,
NEW YORK, U. S. A.
TO WHOM BIDS MAY BE SENT.

THE WITHIN SALE POSTPONED
TO
Friday, Oct. 7, 1904,
At 2:30 P. M.


PART II
OF THE COLLECTION OF
Canadian Medals, and Tokens
THE PROPERTY OF
W. R. McCOLL, Esq.
OF BERLIN, CANADA.
TOGETHER WITH
Selections from Other Cabinets
Comprising a very fine series, of English Silver, United States Silver and Copper, Canadian Coins, Medals and Tokens, Numismatic and Other Books.
WHICH WILL BE SOLD
AT PUBLIC AUCTION,
Absolutely Without Reserve.
At the Rooms of the Collector's Club, 351 4th Ave., New York,
DANIEL R. KENNEDY, Auctioneer,
Thursday Afternoon, Dec. 29, 1904,
AT TWO O'CLOCK.
The Coins, etc., will be on Exhibition on the day of sale from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M.
Catalogued by
Geoffrey Charlton Adams, M. A.
FLAT IRON BUILDING,
Telephone, 2902 Gramercy.
NEW YORK, U. S. A.
TO WHOM BIDS MAY BE SENT.

Sale catalogues of W. R. McColl's collection by Geoffrey Charlton Adams. Part I was postponed for one week.

medals but I will have to forgo the pleasure just now as I have too much to meet for the next two months."

Two months later McColl drops a bombshell in a letter to McLachlan stating in part "My wife has got me to consent to part with my collection of coins and I sent away the first shipment of $140 on approval today. If you have a want list which I can fill for cash send it on."

It was about this time, March of 1903, that McColl offered, for private sale, items from his *List of Canadian, British, United States and Foreign Coins and Pattern Pieces, Paper Money, etc.*

It would seem that the McColl sale list, at best, was a failure. Very little material in his list sold. The entire collection of McColl's tokens was subsequently purchased by an Ontario collector, Fred Gillies of Brampton, for the sum of $1400, in June of 1903. It has been speculated that the well-known American collector Virgil Brand purchased much of McColl's American and British material, but there is no proof to substantiate this claim.

In October 1904, Part I of the McColl collection went to auction through Geoffrey Charlton Adams of New York City, and Part II took place in December of that same year. These sales mark the end of W. R. McColl's numismatic activities. McColl never returned to numismatics after he sold his collections. As well, he gave up his membership in the American Numismatic Association in 1904. When McColl joined ANA in 1901, he had been assigned number 254.

On Friday May 1, 1903, McColl ran his last newspaper ad. In September of 1903 W. R. McColl closed his business in Owen Sound (one reason was that the building he was in was sold to a local business man John Parson); he moved his stock to Berlin, Ont. (later, Kitchener) to start a business there. Whatever business venture he set out to begin, it didn't meet his expectations and McColl was gone from this city in less than a year.

From 1904 until about 1912 McColl entered a new stage in his life, that of the traveling salesman. McColl, armed with his publication "McColl's Guide to Window Trimming and Dry Goods Display", window supplies, and some 500 different window cards, set out on the road with the aim of putting one of his publications in every dry-goods store in every town. According to McColl he had no competition and therefore never had a day he didn't do well.

On October 27, 1911, W. R. McColl's mother Isabella died of "Bright's disease", or kidney failure. She was 82 years old. Just over two weeks later, on November 12, 1911, his father, Ronald, died of natural causes at age 85. Both parents died in Sarnia, Ontario, where they had lived all of their lives. It was right around this time that McColl decided to leave the road and return to Owen Sound and possibly a more stable life once again. Perhaps a small inheritance from his recently deceased parents made the decision easier. In any case W. R. McColl embarked on a completely different path in his life and at the age of 57 purchased the insurance business of R. R. Goldsmith in Owen Sound. In a few years McColl would also become a real estate agent. In December of 1916, William R. McColl was nominated for town council, by H. R. Moffatt and J. C. Grier. The field was the largest ever with 32 nominations. McColl was not successful this time. However, in January 1918, W. R. McColl became a new town assessor along with Mr. John Reid. The appointment paid a salary of $500.

Sometime around 1925 McColl sold his insurance and real estate business to Austin Scully of Owen Sound. For McColl, now 70 years old, it

Above. Lee plot – W.R. McColl's gravesite.
Left. Terney's Shop in 2003 (originally the site of McColl Fair and Gift). McColl left from here the night he died.

only seemed right that he might consider retirement. However, instead, he tried something old. Returning to his business roots, he founded McColl's Fair and Gift Shop, on 2nd Avenue East (formerly Poulett St.) McColl had truly come full circle.

Winter in Owen Sound, as those familiar with the area can attest, can be very harsh and trying. So it was on Tuesday, February 7, 1933, a brutally cold and blizzardy night when William Robert McColl, now a man of 78 years, closed up his shop and headed for his boarding house on 8th Street A East. The long five-block (partly uphill) walk through this raging storm must have been too much for McColl. As he entered his boarding house he collapsed on a chair and died of a heart attack.

The following day the *Owen Sound Sun Times* described McColl as a well-known and admired businessman. It continued "The death of Mr. McColl will be greatly regretted by the business men of Owen Sound especially the merchants with whom he was so well acquainted, as well as by the hundreds who knew him personally."

W.R. McColl was buried in Greenwood Cemetery on February 10, 1933, in the Lee plot. Once again he was united with his brother-in-law William Lee, and his own wife, Lucy. His passing was mourned by his sister Margaret of Sarnia, Ont., his brother Joseph of Buffalo, N.Y., and his brother Jack of St. Louis, Missouri. On McColl's grave, there are neither markers nor stones to indicate he is interred there, but cemetery records show he rests there.

While little else is left of W. R. McColl, his *List of Canadian, British, United States and Foreign Coins and Pattern Pieces, Paper Money, etc.* remains for coming collectors as testimony to a man locally known as "Owen Sound's one best collector."

MCCOLL'S EXPLANATION

W. R. McColl had his personal numismatist cards made by the Chicago token manufacturing firm of C. H. Hanson and Co. Each piece had a population of 100. The way McColl explains it the firm created the "numismatists" obverse in copper and aluminum. McColl claims he refused these pieces because of the error. Apparently C. H. Hanson told McColl they would correct the mistake if he were to order a new die and strike one more token. This would give McColl five different pieces and he would only have to pay for three. The third token McColl ordered was made of brass and had a knurled rim as opposed to the beaded rim of the other pieces made of copper and aluminum.

The only challenge to this token story is the recently discovered brass piece (item *I* in the figure) with the beaded rim of the original design. Was this a one off "sample" and was it struck before or after the knurled-rim piece?

EPILOGUE

A number of years ago, as I once again reached for my copy of McColl's book, it occurred to me that here was a man that had a certain captive audience with his *List of Canadian, British, United States and Foreign Coins and Pattern Pieces, Paper Money, etc.*, and yet I knew absolutely nothing about his personal life. In setting out to enlighten myself I soon realized that it seemed no one else knew much about him either. I exhausted every numismatic channel only to discover the very little that had been written about McColl lacked detail.

Our family cottage is in Sauble Beach, Ontario, just a half-hour drive from Owen Sound. For seven years I would familiarize myself with the local facilities of this wonderful country city even more than I already had in previous years and try to unravel the life of W. R. McColl. Many hours were spent viewing microfilm and all local history books were read. The Grey County Museum had come to know me and it took only a short time for me to realize why nothing had been written before. At first there seemed to be nothing to find. But wait! Here is a man who

spent almost forty years in the town and under the watchful eye of its citizens had grown to be a well-respected businessman. How is it possible that no story remained ... or barely a trace? Photographs of the man appeared to be nonexistent. Slowly, pieces began to fall into place and a story formed of a man who was well liked and respected by everyone who knew him.

As happens with research of this nature I am not completely satisfied that all has been revealed. There are some small holes and of course the years from 1904–1911 are grey areas indeed. I am sure that more may come to light in the future but in the meantime I hope everyone has enjoyed reading my story of McColl's life as I came to see it.

I would like to thank Warren Baker for the use of his McLachlan/McColl letters of correspondence and his kind encouragement over the years while putting this project together. I would also like to thank Paul Berry and the National Currency Collection for the image of W. R. McColl photographed by George Holmes.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE:

While delving into the life of W. R. McColl I began to feel a certain connection with who he had been and possibly how he thought. Most things that could not be substantiated through evidence brought on "gut" feelings. Some may be right or not, but I feel an urge to record them in any case, so future researchers may be able to tie in their thoughts as well. Leftover items of research value not dealt with in the main body of the text may also be of interest to the reader, and so I present them here as random notes. I hope everyone enjoys reading them as much as I enjoyed discovering them.

Thankfully, when newspaper columnist Sawyer Cumming (I love this name—a pen name indicating "Saw ya cumin") began writing biographies for the *Owen Sound Sun Times* about noteworthy people of the city, he deemed McColl deserving of honourable mention. The opening statement says:

> An expert botanist, a lover of nature and a collector of rare objects is William Robert McColl a well known and highly esteemed citizen and business man of Owen Sound.

Later, "...a genial whole souled gentleman he has a host of friends in the City."

When McColl and partner (brother-in-law) William T. Lee moved from Oshawa to Owen Sound they appear to have a solid relationship. McColl and Lee, after arriving in Owen Sound, first advertised their grand opening and subsequent weekly sales in the *Owen Sound Advertiser*. A very short time later they switched to the *Owen Sound Times* likely because the *Advertiser* was considered by most as a radical and blasphemous paper.

A few years after setting up in Owen Sound they had a store built to their specifications; that enabled the slogan "The Twin Stores." This is essentially what was created, two completely separate stores under one roof with McColl running one side and Lee the other! Why? (Today, this store is Fulfords hardware store, encompassing about four stores in all, and is painted a bright and relatively offensive orange colour). Later the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent with each merchant going his own way. I think it is interesting that McColl and Lee do not seem to have shared a life outside of business. They both shared like interests such as botany, with Lee once becoming President of the Owen Sound Horticultural Society, a society that McColl would have had a keen interest in.

I get the feeling that McColl never had a great deal of money. Lee, on the other hand, appears to have been quite successful; he had a nice house and personal esteem. McColl seems to have always lived in modest homes and was likely, at times, a renter. McColl, along with his wife, was deeply involved with the church. Lee was a churchgoer but of Anglican faith attending St. George's church where for a number of years he was a church warden. McColl and Lucy, his wife and Lee's sister, were devoted Presbyterians.

When McColl sold his collection of tokens and coins and paper money he felt that the $1400 he got was only a slight representation of the value. How much McColl had in the way of coins and paper money is still a total mystery to me. How much the Ontario collector, Fred Gillies, paid for the token portion of the collection is also a mystery although McColl originally wanted 62 1/2 cents each for his tokens from McLachlan. It is unclear whether he got $1400 for these or for all of his Canadian token collection. McColl stated at one time his "rare coin collection" consisted of 4000 pieces. The sales by Geoffrey Charlton Adams consisted mostly of Canadian medals and some numismatic books. Given Adams' reputation leading to expulsion from the ANA around this time

period, one has to wonder if McColl actually got paid from the proceeds.

McColl was apparently a stamp collector as well, claiming to have sold a collection to a Winnipeg party for $135 and another collection to a Toronto man (Mr. Allen Butchard) for $112. These sums are relatively modest compared to his tokens, medals etc.

In conclusion I feel safe to say that William Robert McColl was a man who did not seek the limelight, was a dedicated Presbyterian, an elder in his church (likely tithed generously), and a liberal who prided himself on having no fraternal affiliations.

He appears to have lived a modest life.

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Who Said It? A Test of Numismatic Identity

Leonard Augsburger

A frequent correspondent claimed to be able identify the author of specific chapters of *Secret History of the First United States Mint*, co-authored by myself and Joel Orosz. A quick spot check suggested the claim was faulty. However, the idea deserves a wider test. Below are some numismatic quotations and their authors. Match each quote to the author; answers are on page 22. In order to keep things interesting, one of the quotations is previously unpublished.

1. Needles in a haystack can be found, particularly with the magnetism of numismatics.
2. Collecting is a masked form of greed.
3. Authors are notorious for underestimating the work that that must be done in order to write a book.
4. Only a stick and bit of cheese are needed.
5. I never would have accepted, had I entertained the most remote idea that the whole labor and responsibility would devolve upon me, as has proved to be the case.
6. I have written this book because ever since childhood I have wanted to read it and it wasn't there.
7. 1860's traditions and conjectures have become 1940's hypotheses, and all too frequently will become next year's "facts."
8. Ever since the first coin was sold to anybody, somebody has lied about it.
9. Do your worst, the truth will prevail.
10. Coin collecting offers the opportunity to be different.

Authors

a. Sylvester Crosby
b. Eric P. Newman
c. George Kolbe
d. Joel Orosz
e. Walter Breen
f. William Sheldon
g. Michael Hodder
h. Q. David Bowers
i. John Ford
j. John Adams

In Memory of a Mensch: John H. Burns

John Kraljevich

Josiah Wedgwood's gran.... That's as much as the emcee, Donn Pearlman, got out before Big John rang in. "Charles Darwin," he intoned in his deepest matinee idol voice, the smirk of self-satisfaction expanding across his bewhiskered face with each successive syllable. Most folks in the room didn't know who Josiah Wedgwood was, let alone who his grandson was. All I could wonder, beyond how John knew the answer to the question before it even got asked, was what other knowledge was kicking around inside that too-big-for-most-hats head of his.

After being crushed with disappointment with a second-place finish in 1993, John Burns and I won the ANA's World Series of Numismatics in 1994. John felt like he'd let me down the year before, but his sourness in the hands of defeat turned to the highest high I'd ever seen him on when we won. The victory meant, to him, all the reading, all the work had been worth it, that his previously unrecognized brilliance had finally gotten a moment to shine.

John Burns (right) squeezes a smile from John Kraljevich

Of course, all his friends already knew he was brilliant, as did most casual observers who engaged him in conversation. He knew more about coins than most full-time dealers, able to talk turkey on VAMs or novodels or sestertii. He could hold his own in any discussion of history, sports, politics, movies, music (from classical to heavy metal), food and drink, cars, guns, geography, or a million other topics. About the only topic John lacked a mastery of was entrepreneurship. He could never quite monetize his brilliance, much to his frustration. He once mused to me that "intelligence is not a skill." He was always happy to rail against the "slab boys" who could buy and sell his net worth a dozen times in a summer afternoon with no more knowledge than what might be found in a typical Grey Sheet. More than once I encouraged him to try out trading, under the guise of joining them if beating them isn't in the cards. But John had no love for trading, and one thing about John was that he only did what he loved.

John loved mastering knowledge, both foundational and trivial, and that meant John loved books. He loved their weight and tactile sensations (even if he did spit curses at every loading dock he ever saw). He loved how they were gateways to things he'd never own and places he'd never visit. He loved their ability to serve as an equalizer, as a repository of that most final of weapons, information. Of course, John also loved a big steak, a nice whiskey, and a cold beer. He loved just about everything about a woman that a woman had to offer, and a wink or a hug could turn him into a massive pile of sweaty smiles and blushing. John loved his dad and adored his friends. He loved his friends' friends and his friends' families. He loved chatting, at his booth at a show or on the phone.

It's no wonder John did so many coin shows. The people he found there were his kind of folks: clever and funny, maybe a little awkward or odd, generally very smart and very sincere. He was forever inviting himself into dinner groups where he thought good convivial conversation could be had. John identified with a line I'd heard from a mutual friend of ours years ago, that most coin folks were misfits and loners. Of course, though John was an oddball and spent most of his time alone, he was really neither a misfit nor a loner. He loved being with his gang, and he fit in just perfectly in the world of numismatics.

Now that he's gone, there's a pretty big void in the fabric of our odd little world. Professionally, there won't be a blue-collar bookseller at coin shows from Raleigh to Monroeville anymore. Personally, there are

a whole lot of us who are going to miss our very frank, very funny, very honest, entirely unique, and always surprisingly well-informed friend.

John and I were both Pennsylvania boys. We were both goys in Jewish fraternities. Over the course of 25 years of friendship, going back to our days attending small local shows in the middle of Pennsylvania, we found lots of common ground. He loved my wife from the first time he met her (which may or may not have had something to do with a ribald quip referencing Chaucer that passed her lips and wowed his ears) and asked me to clone her personality into a somewhat larger-sized version. He called my mom "Mom".

The last time we spoke was at the FUN show. John was propped up on a stool in the back of the bourse near the men's room. We talked about the recent loss of his mother, which yielded to an unusually theological conversation on the nature of the soul. John offered that he thought the soul was made of memories, nothing more and nothing less, and that memories were what we took with us when we left. He hoped that his mom was reliving some of her happiest memories, moments full of joy and youthfulness, alive forever exactly as those who loved her most remembered her best. I hope he's right, for her, for himself, and for us all.

Answers to the Test of Numismatic Identity (see page 19)

1. (b) Eric P. Newman, *Empire Topics*, August–September 1959, issue no. 7. Later reprinted in the *Colonial Newsletter*, vol 49 no. 2 (August 2009), serial no. 140, 3433–3434.
2. (j) John Adams, unpublished.
3. (d) Joel Orosz, *Secret History of the First United States Mint*, vii.
4. (c) George Kolbe, *The Reference Library of a Numismatic Bookseller*, 108. The quotation refers to *An Island of Civility*, the history of the New York Numismatic Club: "An excellent, comprehensive account of this justly celebrated institution, a bit marred by its 'mouse-trap' structure, i.e. the adhesive perfect binding combined with thick paper stock makes the contents automatically snap shut unless manually held open (only a stick and bit of cheese are needed)."
5. (a) Sylvester S. Crosby, *The Early Coins of America*, Introduction.
6. (f) William H. Sheldon, *Penny Whimsy*, Preface.
7. (e) Walter Breen, "The United States Patterns of 1792," *The Coin Collector's Journal*, vol. 21 no. 2 (March–April 1954), 6.
8. (i) John Ford, *Legacy*, vol. 3, no. 2, Summer 1990, 52.
9. (g) Michael Hodder, from the "Great Debate" at the 1999 ANA Convention.
10. (h) Q. David Bowers, *Adventures With Rare Coins*, 4.

Score

1–2	Get thee to a library.
3–4	Boob level—come back when you have something good to sell.
5–6	No insults here—no compliments, either.
7–8	Good job—you actually read the books in your collection.
9–10	You should be writing this article, not reading it!

Reminiscences of a Numismatic Bookseller 4

George Kolbe

Over the past three and a half decades I have traveled far and wide to acquire numismatic libraries. A story could be told about a number of these acquisitional forays but none, perhaps, is more exotic than the one that follows.

In the late 1990s, an advertisement regularly appearing in *The Numismatist* stated that "We are in constant need of important numismatic literature and are prepared to travel wherever the books are." Although library buying trips by then had been made to several European countries, Canada, and a great many states across the U.S., this ad, and others like it, had never to my knowledge produced direct results. That changed in January 1999.

I received a telephone call from a coin dealer who had conducted business from Portugal in the third quarter of the twentieth century. He cited the ad and asked if I would be interested in purchasing his substantial numismatic library. Operating from Lisbon, although of Austrian origin, Thomas Faistauer was internationally well known for his numismatic specialties, namely the coins and medals of Portugal, Brazil, and Spanish America. His fine collection of colonial eight reales was sold at auction in 1976 by Jess Peters, and his Spanish American colonial coins were auctioned by Henry Christensen in 1979. Other portions of his collection were sold by Christensen in his 1983 Santa Cruz sale and as late as 2000 by Hess-Divo.

A trip to Portugal, a place I had never visited, was certainly appealing. Cambuquira? Yes, Mr. Faistauer confirmed, he and his wife now resided in Brazil, in a small town about a three-hour drive from São Paulo. The name of the *cidade* conjures an exotic location, if perhaps not as enticing as Coleridge's mythical Xanadu, surely more than heady enough for a numismatic bookseller. Located in the second most populous state of Brazil, Minas Gerais, Cambuquira is surrounded by commercial agriculture and, as I found out, menacing giant ant hills dot the

region. The "General Mines" area was once famous for its rich deposits of gold and gems, later including diamonds. Gold was first discovered in 1693 and mining continued into the nineteenth century. Nowadays the region is the largest producer of coffee and milk in the country, the former readily apparent from the profusion of *Coffea* plants, laden with a bounty of red seeds called coffee beans, proliferating on Cambuquira's verdant rolling hillsides.

Responding to Faistauer's query in the affirmative, yes, I could visit him in late February, due to prior commitments. The Faistauers, however, were concerned that traveling in and out of São Paulo during Mardi Gras, which began in the middle of February that year, would not be safe and I rearranged my schedule to allow for a trip earlier in the month. A visa was required and a quick trip was made to the Brazilian consulate in Los Angeles to secure it. The twelve-hour flight to São Paulo was grueling if uneventful and, upon arrival, two Faistauer employees met me at the airport. A trip by automobile ensued. Throughout, miles of excellent highway were interrupted by miserable stretches of dirt or gravel, though road work had been supposedly been in process in these areas for years. Halfway to Cambuquira, we stopped for an early-afternoon meal at an excellent *churrascaria*. The driver and his companion were very alert and cautious upon arrival and departure, to which I paid scant notice at the time.

Eventually we arrived at the Faistauer residence in Cambuquira, inside a large compound of several acres enclosed by a ten-foot-high stone wall surmounted by glass shards and featuring an impenetrable steel gate that could be operated only from inside. Following a phone call, the electronic gate swung open and, for a stretch, we passed through various plantings till we arrived at a charming large old plantation house, built in the early 1800s. I was greeted warmly by the Faistauers and was shown to a spacious bedroom suite. After unpacking and resting a bit, Thomas Faistauer gave me a tour of the rooms in the house where his books were located, then we walked around outside. In addition to ornamental plantings, there were experimental sections where organic fruits and vegetables were being grown and pens for a variety of farm animals. As we ventured towards one of the perimeter walls, a number of dogs started growling and barking ferociously. The hounds, Faistauer explained, were loosed from their kennel in the evening and he cautioned me not to venture outside the house at night.

A retinue of employees were housed in facilities apart from the main house. Mrs. Faistauer advised me that their small community was virtually self-sufficient inside their walled enclave. Coffee in the morning was made from beans harvested and roasted there, bread was baked daily, meat, fruit, and vegetables were plentiful. A large-scale agricultural operation conducted by the Faistauers took place on land nearby and accounted for much of the produce sold in the town. The Faistauers were clearly in love with Cambuquira and their endeavors had a substantial and highly beneficial effect on the local economy.

I neglected to mention that when Mr. Faistauer was taking me through the house, he had taken me to the master bedroom suite and had shown me several holes and chips in the bathroom tile. Not a young man at the time at the time, he related to me how, less than a year before my visit, he had confronted, exchanged shots with, and killed two intruders in the house, one in their bathroom, another in the kitchen. It took several hours for the authorities to arrive and the Faistauers were convinced that the local *policia* were involved in the home invasion. Immediately thereafter, the perimeter walls were heightened an additional two feet and spiked with pieces of broken glass, and gate security was enhanced. The hacienda was an armed camp and everywhere we went during my visit, Mr. Faistauer was packing heat. Even at poolside one morning I noticed the butt of a handgun protruding from his robe. The caution previously exercised by my driver and his helper suddenly came into focus.

Although a charming village, the streets of Cambuquira became a bit less idyllic when I noticed soldiers with automatic weapons stationed on the corners of several of them. One day, on a visit to the charming grounds and mineral spa at São Lourenço, an hour or so away, the car broke down in a remote area and, while we waited for roadside assistance, the Faistauers were quite concerned about the possibility of being accosted. At the time, I never felt in danger. Now I wonder. The Faistauers may have been overly cautious, given their frightening experience, but surely I was far too oblivious to the dangers of being in Brazil at such a tumultous time.

Part of the need for my early visit was attributable to the rapidly deteriorating value of the Brazilian real. On my second day there we quickly agreed on a price for the library and the books were packed. Over the years it typically has been difficult to send books from South

America to the United States, yet Faistauer somehow managed to ship the books quickly and cheaply. The first portion of the library was sold in my November 13, 1999, sale as "Consignment FF: An Important Numismatic Library"; the second part was also sold as "Consignment FF" in June of the following year. It was a fine library, far more varied in content than Faistauer's numismatic specialties would suggest. That said, it featured many standard works on Portuguese, Brazilian, and Spanish-American numismatic topics, including classics by Medina, Sousa Lobo, Batalha Reis, Meili, Rosa, and Herrera. Between the two sales, over 700 lots were offered, many comprised of multiple publications. A goodly number of volumes were attractively bound in leather and condition was generally excellent, despite years spent in a warm, humid climate.

At the time, my son was majoring in biology and environmental studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He was also involved in an experimental farming program there. A large organic farming operation was conducted by the Faistauers and we talked about the possibility of George Albert spending a semester or two there. Unfortunately, the plans never reached fruition and he subsequently spent a year in Costa Rica.

My trip to Brazil is among the more memorable experiences in my life. Certainly I have never bought a numismatic library under more singular circumstances.

Off the Shelf

David F. Fanning

One of the true landmarks of numismatic literature was published in 1702 in Paris. A monumental work in more ways than one, *Médailles sur les principaux événements du règne de Louis le Grand, avec des explications historiques*[1] first made its appearance that year, initially in a sumptuous large folio format and quickly followed by a more affordable and easily handled quarto edition.

The 1702 *Médailles* is not your typical coin book. Produced by the Académie Royale des Médailles et des Inscriptions and printed by the Imprimerie Royale, it is perhaps the most sumptuous numismatic work ever produced. It was intended not simply to be a record of the medals of Louis XIV, but a carefully constructed history of his reign. In *The Fabrication of Louis XIV*,[2] Peter Burke discusses the publication of this work. The king himself was deeply involved in its execution and wished to supplant the previous work on the subject by the Jesuit priest Claude-François Menestrier.[3]

From the birth of Louis XIV in 1638 and his ascension to the throne on the death of Louis XIII less than five years later, this work traces the important events in the life of this illustrious monarch as well as the history of France itself. Louis was intensely interested in the arts and did much to create the reputation France still enjoys as a worldwide center of culture. He was determined to expand the royal coin cabinet and issued commemorative medals on many occasions. These commemorative medals are the subject of this magnificent work.

This devotion to numismatics and historiography is reflected in the

1 Académie Royale des Médailles et des Inscriptions, *Médailles sur les principaux événements du règne de Louis le Grand, avec des explications historiques* (Paris: Imprimerie Royale, 1702).

2 Peter Burke, *The Fabrication of Louis XIV* (New Haven: Yale, 1992).

3 Claude-François Menestrier, *Histoire du Roy Louis le Grand par les médailles, emblèmes, devises, jettons, inscriptions, armoiries, et autres monumens publics* (Paris: I. B. Nolin, 1691). *Seconde édition, augmentée de plusiers figures et corrigée*, 1693.

Figure 1. The 1702 folio edition, 1702 quarto edition, and 1723 folio edition (left to right).

physical production of this volume. The finest engravers were hired, the best paper available was used, and the bindings tend to be beautiful and ornate (Figure 1). One does not acquire the sobriquet *Le Roi Soleil* due to one's simplicity of taste. Even the font used to print the text was specially created for Louis: *Romain du Roy* was designed by Philippe Grandjean (1666–1714) around 1700, having been in development since 1693. This was the first work printed in this font, which attempted to use scientific principles to develop a font that was both practical and elegant. Only the royal press could use the fonts, which continued to be developed through 1745.

The historical descriptions of the medals were written by Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux (1636–1711), and the engravings and other artistic flourishes required the participation of artists Antoine Coypel (1661–

1722), Charles Simonneau (1645–1728), Louis Simonneau (1654–1727), Nicolas Pitau (1670–1724), Sébastien Le Clerc (1637–1714), Jean Berain (1640–1711) and many others. Jean Racine (1639–1699) played a role in the early development of the project, which was eventually published under the auspices of the Imprimerie Royale by Jean Anisson (c. 1642–1721). Other participants included Jean-Paul Bignon (1662–1743), the librarian to the king, and Paul Tallemand (1642–1712).

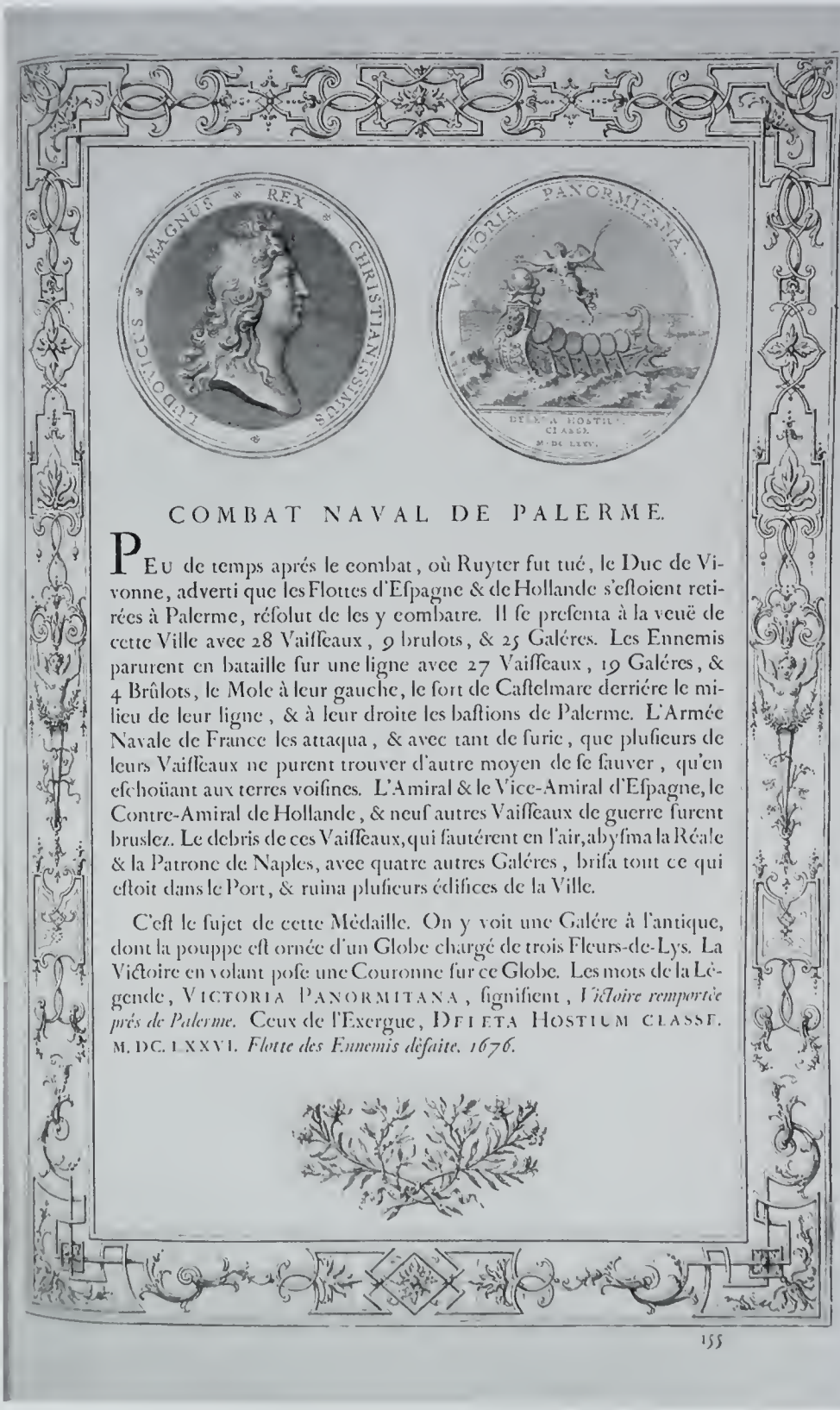
François Charpentier (1620–1702) was an important member of l'Académie Française and was involved in the production of many of the medals depicted in this volume. While primary authorship has traditionally been ascribed to him, his actual involvement in the work appears unclear and in recent years I have ascribed authorship to the Académie Royale des Médailles et des Inscriptions itself rather than to Charpentier et al.

The final product is a masterpiece of the bibliographic arts. Each page depicts the obverse and reverse of a medal, with beautifully printed descriptive text, all within intricate ornamental borders, occasionally with *culs-de-lampe* (Figure 2). The magnificent allegorical frontispiece was engraved by Charles Simonneau following a design by Coypel and integrating a portrait of Louis by Hyacinthe Rigaud (1659–1743). Fleurons and other decorative flourishes abound. (The Musée de l'Imprimerie, in Lyon, held an exhibition in 2002 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of this work.)

A handful of copies are known in bindings featuring the royal arms emblazoned on both sides and the king's double-L cipher integrated into the spine's intricately gilt design (Figure 3). Baron W. H. J. van Westreenen van Tiellandt (1783–1848), in cataloguing the magnificent library of Pierre Van Damme in 1808, wrote that those copies with the royal arms were "exécutée par les ordres du monarque même, qui s'en est reservé tous les exemplaires pour en faire des présens."[4]

The first printing of the folio edition of this majestic work was presented to Louis XIV on January 9, 1702. It included a 14-page *Préface* suppressed from subsequent printings (Figure 4). Westreenen van Tiellandt stated that only the first 65 copies included it ("...avec la préface

4 (Baron) W.H.J. van Westreenen van Tiellandt [cataloguer], *Catalogue de la bibliothèque et du cabinet de médailles, antiques et modernes, ainsi que de quelques pierres gravées, antiquités &c. délaissés par M. Pierre van Damme*, La Haye, 21 mars 1808 et jours suivants (L'auctionaire J. Konig et les Libraires Thierry-Mensing et P. van Daalen Wetters).



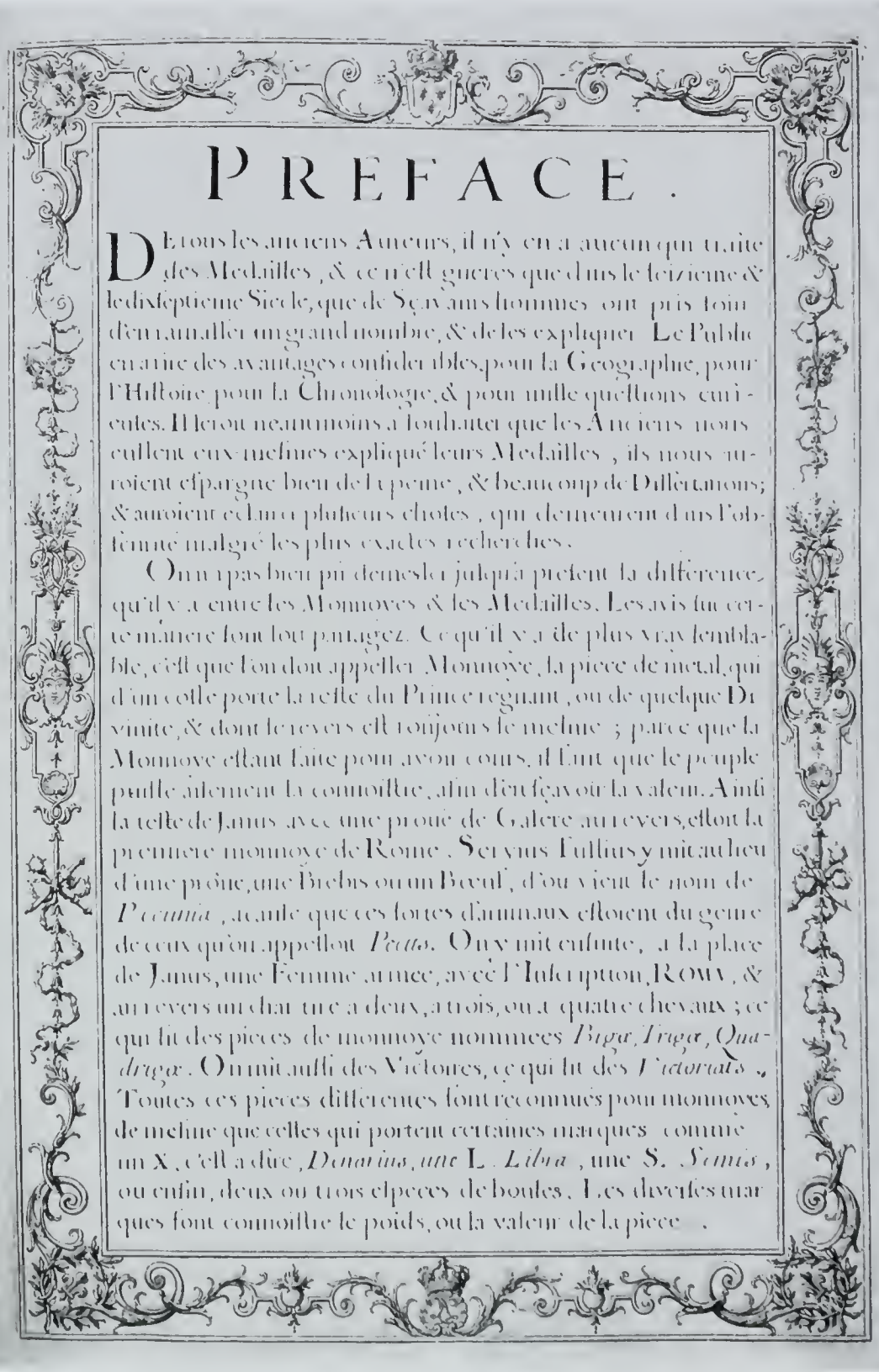
COMBAT NAVAL DE PALERME.

PEU de temps aprés le combat, où Ruyter fut tué, le Duc de Vivonne, adverti que les Flottes d'Eſpagne & de Hollande s'eſtoient retirées à Palerme, réſolut de les y combatre. Il ſe preſenta à la veuë de cette Ville avec 28 Vaiſſeaux, 9 brulots, & 25 Galéres. Les Ennemis parurent en bataille ſur une ligne avec 27 Vaiſſeaux, 19 Galéres, & 4 Brûlots, le Mole à leur gauche, le fort de Caſtelmare derriére le milieu de leur ligne, & à leur droite les baſtions de Palerme. L'Armée Navale de France les attaqua, & avec tant de furie, que pluſieurs de leurs Vaiſſeaux ne purent trouver d'autre moyen de ſe ſauver, qu'en eſchoüant aux terres voiſines. L'Amiral & le Vice-Amiral d'Eſpagne, le Contre-Amiral de Hollande, & neuf autres Vaiſſeaux de guerre furent bruslez. Le debris de ces Vaiſſeaux, qui ſautérent en l'air, abyſma la Réale & la Patrone de Naples, avec quatre autres Galéres, briſa tout ce qui eſtoit dans le Port, & ruina pluſieurs édifices de la Ville.

C'eſt le ſujet de cette Médaille. On y voit une Galére à l'antique, dont la pouppe eſt ornée d'un Globe chargé de trois Fleurs-de-Lys. La Victoire en volant poſe une Couronne ſur ce Globe. Les mots de la Légende, VICTORIA PANORMITANA, ſignifient, *Victoire remportée prés de Palerme.* Ceux de l'Exergue, DEFECTA HOSTIUM CLASSE. M. DC. LXXVI. *Flotte des Ennemis défaite. 1676.*

Figure 2. A leaf from the first folio edition.

Figure 3. The Royal arms impressed in gilt on a first printing of the 1702 folio edition.



PREFACE.

DE tous les anciens Auteurs, il n'y en a aucun qui traite des Medailles, & ce n'eſt gueres que dans le ſeizieme & le dixſeptieme Siecle, que de Sçavans hommes ont pris ſoin d'en ramaſſer un grand nombre, & de les expliquer. Le Public en a tiré des avantages conſiderables, pour la Geographie, pour l'Hiſtoire, pour la Chronologie, & pour mille queſtions curieuſes. Il eſt neanmoins à ſouhaiter que les Anciens nous euſſent eux-meſmes expliqué leurs Medailles, ils nous auroient épargné bien de la peine, & beaucoup de Diſſertations; & auroient éclairci pluſieurs choſes, qui demeurent dans l'obſcurité malgré les plus exactes recherches.

On n'a pas bien pû demeſler juſqu'à preſent la difference, qu'il y a entre les Monnoyes & les Medailles. Les avis ſur cette matiere ſont tout partagez. Ce qu'il y a de plus vray-ſemblable, c'eſt que l'on doit appeller Monnoye, la piece de metal, qui d'un coſté porte la teſte du Prince regnant, ou de quelque Divinité, & dont le revers eſt toûjours le meſme; parce que la Monnoye eſtant faite pour avoir cours, il faut que le peuple puiſſe aiſément la connoiſtre, afin d'en ſçavoir la valeur. Ainſi la teſte de Janus avec une proüe de Galere au revers, eſtoit la premiere monnoye de Rome. Servius Tullius y mit au lieu d'une proüe, une Brebis ou un Beeuf, d'où vient le nom de *Pecunia*, à cauſe que ces ſortes d'animaux eſtoient du genre de ceux qu'on appelloit *Pecus*. On y mit enſuite, à la place de Janus, une Femme armée, avec l'Inſcription, ROMV, & au revers un chariot à deux, à trois, ou à quatre chevaux; ce qui fit des pieces de monnoye nommées *Biga, Triga, Quadriga*. On mit auſſi des Victoires, ce qui fit des *Victoriats*. Toutes ces pieces differentes ſont reconnuës pour monnoyes de meſme que celles qui portent certaines marques comme un X, c'eſt à dire, *Denarius*, une L. *Libra*, une S. *Semis*, ou enfin, deux ou trois eſpeces de boules. Les diverſes marques font connoiſtre le poids, ou la valeur de la piece.

Figure 4. The suppressed *Préface*.

imprimée, qui, à ce que l'on dit, ne se trouve que dans les 65 premiers distribués, et fut ensuite supprimée avec soin"). Signed by Anisson, the *Préface* identifies many of the artists used in the work, which is important as the medallic engravings are unsigned. Of the engravings, the *Préface* states that 200 were executed by Coypel, with the balance being done by Le Clerc. It also identifies the artists who created the decorative elements throughout. Why the *Préface* was suppressed is unclear. According to Auguste Bernard's *Histoire de l'Imprimerie Royale du Louvre* (1867), "Sa suppression eut lieu par ordre de Louis XIV, qui la trouva trop louangeuse!"[5] It would appear that the king felt it distracted the reader from the intended focus of the work: himself and his *gloire*.

A quarto edition was printed the same year. The reduced format required entirely new engravings (Figure 5). The medals throughout the quarto volume have only their reverses depicted, with the obverse also shown only when there was a change in design. They are also smaller, being 44 mm in diameter, as opposed to the 73 mm diameter of the pieces portrayed in the folio edition (though, as pointed out in the *Avertissement* leaf, this means that the medals are depicted herein at their actual size). The works are essentially textually identical, though the quarto edition never includes the *Préface* found in the earliest issues of the folio edition. Though a plainer cousin of the folio, this quarto edition has its advantages to the numismatic researcher, its considerably more practical size not being the least of them.

Two other quarto editions, with added text in German, were printed in Schaffhausen (1704)[6] and Baden (1705).[7] These are less frequently seen than the French quarto.

Following the king's death in 1715, an expanded edition was prepared for publication in 1723.[8] This second edition is preferred in some

5 Auguste Bernard, *Histoire de l'Imprimerie Royale du Louvre* (Paris: Imprimerie Impériale, 1867). p. 155.

6 Académie Royale des Médailles et des Inscriptions, *Médailles sur les principaux événements du règne de Louis le Grand, avec des explications historiques / Curiöse Schau-Müntzen, vorstellend die vornehmste Thaten Lüdwig des Grossen....* (Schaffhausen: Jean Rudolph Frey, 1704).

7 Académie Royale des Médailles et des Inscriptions, *Médailles sur les principaux événements du règne de Louis le Grand, avec des explications historiques / Curiöse Schau-Müntzen, vorstellend die vornehmste Thaten Lüdwig des Grossen....* (Baden: J.L. Baldinger, 1705).

8 Académie Royale des Médailles et des Inscriptions, *Médailles sur les principaux événements du règne entier de Louis le Grand, avec des explications historiques* (Paris: Imprimerie Royale, 1723).

COMBAT DE TABAGO EN AMERIQUE.

LEs Hollandois eſtoient maiſtres de l'Iſle de Tabago, l'une des Antilles. Ils y avoient un Fort, & y tenoient une Eſcadre de Vaiſſeaux, avec laquelle ils incommodoient beaucoup le Commerce de France dans l'Amérique. Le Comte d'Eſtrées eut ordre de les en chaſſer. Il partit de la Martinique le onze de Février avec ſix Vaiſſeaux, quatre Fregates, & un Brulot. Les Ennemis avoient dix Vaiſſeaux, trois autres Baſtimens, & un Brulot retirez dans le Port, dont l'entrée eſtoit fort eſtroite & trés-difficile à cauſe des bancs de ſable. On mit d'abord quelques troupes à terre pour aſſiéger le Fort; mais comme l'entrepriſe tiroit en longueur, & que le ſuccés eſtoit incertain, parce que les Ennemis y pouvoient envoyer du ſecours à toute heure, on réſolut d'attaquer l'Eſcadre dans le Port meſme. Les Vaiſſeaux n'y pouvoient entrer que l'un aprés l'autre, & il falloit eſſuyer tout le feu de la Flotte ennemie, & de pluſieurs batteries dreſſées à fleur d'eau. Ces difficultez n'empeſchérent pas le Comte d'exécuter ſon deſſein: il les attaqua le troiſiéme jour de Mars, & malgré leur grande réſiſtance, il bruſla d'abord leur Amiral, enſuite leurs autres Vaiſſeaux, & deux fluſtes, où ils avoient mis les femmes, les enfans & les Negres. Deux Vaiſſeaux eſchappérent & vinrent eſchoüer à la coſte. Cette Victoire mit les François en eſtat de prendre le Fort peu de temps aprés, & cependant rendit inutiles tous les projets & tous les préparatifs des Ennemis contre les Colonies Françoiſes.

C'eſt le ſujet de cette Médaille. On voit au-deſſus de la proüe d'un Vaiſſeau la Victoire, qui de la main droite tient un foudre, & de la gauche une Palme. La Légende, INCENSA BATAVORUM CLASSE; & l'Exergue, AD INSULAM TABAGO. M. DC. LXXVII. ſignifient, *la flotte des Hollandois bruſlée à Tabago. 1677.*

Figure 5. A leaf from the 1702 quarto edition.

respects because it was issued after the Sun King's death in 1715 and, hence, includes medals issued through the entirety of its subject's life. It contains 318 plates instead of the 286 of the 1702 editions. Incredibly, however, the 1723 edition didn't simply reprint the 1702 volume and then add the final years: the medals have been re-engraved throughout, as subtle differences reveal upon close examination. The editions are textually distinct as well, though the 1723 edition clearly used the earlier work as its basis.

There are also some small differences between what the two editions include: for instance, the 1702 edition includes two medals struck on the birth of Louis XIV; the 1723 edition includes only one. These differences between the two editions are worthy of further research.[9] Produced on the orders of Louis Antoine de Pardaillan de Gondrin, Duc d'Antin (1665–1736), and under the direction of Claude Gros de Boze (1680–1753), the production values of the 1723 edition were clearly no less than for the 1702 edition published during the king's reign. Brunet felt the 1723 edition was "plus belle que la première."[10] Only 500 copies were printed of this volume, which is not only a work of art, but an important contemporary reference to these medals still consulted with profit today.

9 Brunet notes, "Au sujet des planches de ces deux éditions, consultez *Le Peintre graveur français*, VII, p. 206 et suiv." Also, printing specifications for this edition were unearthed in the Archives nationales and published in 1885 by J.-J. Guiffrey. The question of which medals to include was always of potential political danger. Burke states that the decision to exclude certain medals was made at the highest levels.

10 Jacques-Charles Brunet, *Manuel du libraire et de l'amateur de livres*.... (Paris: Librairie de Firmin Didot Frères, Fils et C^ie^, 1860–1865), 5 ed., III.1565 (23739).

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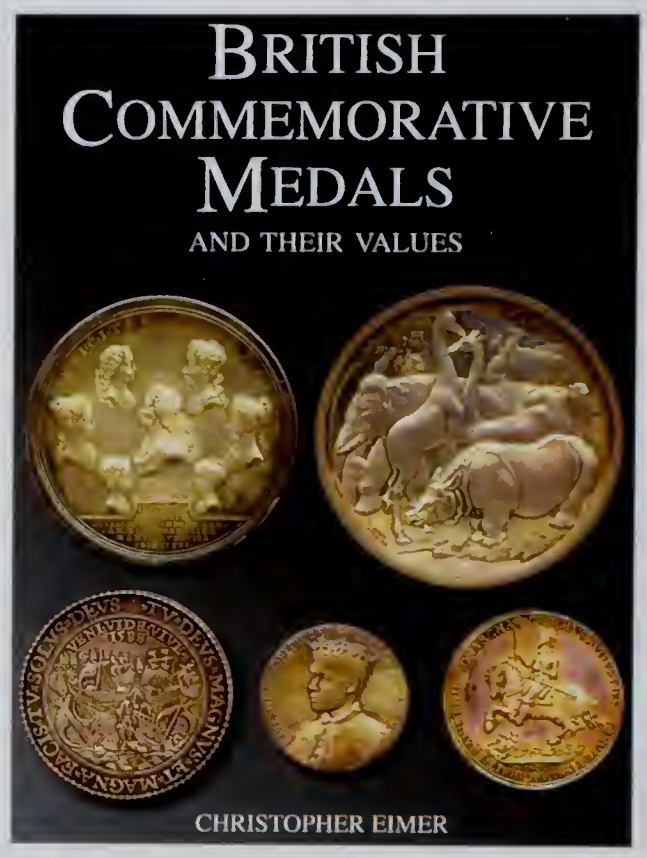

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